
HOUSE BILL 2005

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Santos, Upthegrove, Schindler, Pettigrew, Murray, Williams, McCoy, Kenney and Wood

Read first time 02/15/2005. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to recognizing the value of parent and family
2 involvement in the academic success of children by removing barriers to
3 admission into alternative publicly funded classrooms; amending RCW
4 28A.320.140; adding new sections to chapter 28A.320 RCW; and creating
5 a new section.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that Article IX
8 of the Washington state Constitution provides that, "It is the
9 paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education
10 of all children residing within its borders, without distinction or
11 preference on account of race, color, caste, or sex" and that "The
12 legislature shall provide for a general and uniform system of public
13 schools." The legislature finds that children have different learning
14 styles and needs and that parent and family involvement in educational
15 activities is critical to the academic achievement of children and
16 crucial to the success of all K-12 educational programs. Families have
17 the right and responsibility to be active partners and participants in
18 the education of their children based on the needs of each child.
19 Although the value of parent and family involvement in educational

1 activities is without question, certain barriers to parent and family
2 participation in school activities exist, including, but not limited
3 to, work schedules, illness, disabilities, poverty, limited English
4 proficiency, lack of transportation, cultural differences, lack of
5 child care, and incarceration. Written contracts and verbal
6 expectations mandating parent and family participation in school
7 activities create unfair barriers to program admission for many
8 students who would otherwise benefit from a diversity of educational
9 opportunities. Most of these barriers are economic in nature,
10 preventing many parents and families with lower incomes from
11 participating in certain alternative educational programs.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 Traditional and alternative educational opportunities shall be made
15 available to students on a general, uniform, and equal basis. Schools
16 shall not create barriers to admission for students who would otherwise
17 benefit from traditional or alternative educational opportunities. The
18 admission criteria for any traditional or alternative common school
19 program shall not include any written or verbal requirement or
20 expectation that parents or family members must volunteer or
21 participate in school activities for a child to attend the program.
22 Parent and family involvement in school programs and activities shall
23 be valued and encouraged but not required for school or program
24 admission. A child shall not be denied admission into any traditional
25 or alternative classroom because of disabilities caused by a family's
26 economic or social status, including the inability or unwillingness of
27 a parent or family member to volunteer, provide transportation, or
28 participate in school activities. Traditional and alternative common
29 school programs shall be free of tuition whether required in the form
30 of dollars or hours of labor.

31 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.320.140 and 1997 c 266 s 14 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 (1) School district boards of directors may establish schools or
34 programs which parents may choose for their children to attend in
35 which: (a) Students are required to conform to dress and grooming
36 codes, including requiring that students wear uniforms; (b) parents are

1 ((~~required~~)) regularly encouraged to participate in the student's
2 education; or (c) discipline requirements are more stringent than in
3 other schools in the district.

4 (2) School district boards of directors may establish schools or
5 programs in which: (a) Students are required to conform to dress and
6 grooming codes, including requiring that students wear uniforms; (b)
7 parents are regularly ((~~counseled and~~)) encouraged to participate in
8 the student's education; or (c) discipline requirements are more
9 stringent than in other schools in the district. School boards may
10 require that students who are subject to suspension or expulsion attend
11 these schools or programs as a condition of continued enrollment in the
12 school district.

13 (3) If students are required to wear uniforms in these programs or
14 schools, school districts shall accommodate students so that the
15 uniform requirement is not an unfair barrier to school attendance and
16 participation.

17 (4) Nothing in this section impairs or reduces in any manner
18 whatsoever the authority of a board under other law to impose a dress
19 and appearance code. However, if a board requires uniforms under such
20 other authority, it shall accommodate students so that the uniform
21 requirement is not an unfair barrier to school attendance and
22 participation.

23 (5) School district boards of directors may adopt dress and
24 grooming code policies which prohibit students from wearing gang-
25 related apparel. If a dress and grooming code policy contains this
26 provision, the school board must also establish policies to notify
27 students and parents of what clothing and apparel is considered to be
28 gang-related apparel. This notice must precede any disciplinary action
29 resulting from a student wearing gang-related apparel.

30 (6) School district boards of directors may not adopt a dress and
31 grooming code policy which precludes students who participate in
32 nationally recognized youth organizations from wearing organization
33 uniforms on days that the organization has a scheduled activity or
34 prohibit students from wearing clothing in observance of their
35 religion.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
37 RCW to read as follows:

1 Acceptance to a traditional or alternative school program shall not
2 be determined by parents or family members of participants in
3 traditional or alternative school programs.

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